



3683 #

BOX AMENDMENTS
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Robert T. Loftus

Attorney Docket No. BOEI-1-1005

Serial No.: 09/974,991

Group Art Unit: 3683

Filing Date: October 10, 2001

Examiner: Melanie Torres

Title: OPPOSING CONICAL PRELOADED ELASTOMERIC BEARING
ASSEMBLY

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

A. Amendment Transmittal

Transmitted with this letter is

- (1) an amendment (19 pgs) with drawings (6 pgs) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
- (2) a return postcard
- (3) check number 8010 for \$110.00
- (4) an executed supplemental Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney in Patent Application under C.F.R. § 1.67 and
- (5) a Petition for Extension of Time and Payment of Fee.

B. Additional Fee Charges or Credit for Overpayment

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.18 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 501050. This authorization also hereby includes a request for any extensions of time of the appropriate length required upon the filing of any reply during the entire prosecution of this application. *A copy of this letter is enclosed.*

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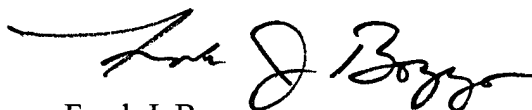
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Respectfully submitted,

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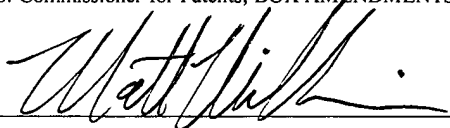
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated below addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, BOX AMENDMENTS, Washington D.C. 20231.

4/18/03

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Matt Williams




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AMENDMENT

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS:

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

At page 2, line 4, please replace the current paragraph with this paragraph:

“Elastomeric conical bearings are commonly used in bearing assemblies for helicopter rotor systems to accommodate rotor motion. The bearing assemblies are axially preloaded to prevent the conical bearing elements from experiencing a resultant tensional load. Currently, mono-directional bearing elements are employed at each attachment site of the main rotor hub. FIGURE 1 depicts a view of a prior art articulated hub assembly 20a. The hub assembly 20a includes a tie bar 26 connected to a hub center body 22. Each bearing assembly 30a includes a conical bearing element 52 contacting the journal 28 on the bearing’s inner surface 52 and the outer bearing surface is contained within an outer housing 42a. Each bearing assembly also includes a mono-directional single conical taper elastomeric bearing element 54 contained within. The conical bearing elements 52 are arranged such that the apex of the conical bearing elements 52 extends radially outward from one another. The bearing arrangement yields a force couple that extends from one bearing to the other. The force couple yields a bearing pre-load path 43 extending through the hub center body 22.”

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